

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A toner comprising: a core layer and a shell layer formed on the core layer,

wherein the core layer and the shell layer respectively contain a first wax and a second wax; the second wax has a melting point that is higher than a melting point of the first wax; the first wax has an average dispersion diameter that is smaller than the average dispersion diameter of the second wax; and the first wax has a content in the core layer that is greater than a content of the second wax in the shell layer.

2. The toner according to claim 1, wherein the first wax has an average dispersion diameter in a range of 0.3 to 0.8  $\mu\text{m}$  and the second wax has an average dispersion diameter in a range of 0.5 to 1.0  $\mu\text{m}$ .

3. The toner according to claim 1, wherein the first wax has a content in a range of 10 to 30 % by weight in the core layer and the second wax has a content in a range of 5 to 25 % by weight in the shell layer.

4. The toner according to claim 1, wherein the first wax and the second wax are ester compounds.

5. The toner according to claim 4, wherein the first wax contains a straight-chain saturated monohydroxy alcohol as an alcohol component and the second wax contains a di- to hexa-valent polyhydroxy alcohol as an alcohol component.

6. The toner according to claim 1, wherein the second wax has a melting point that is higher than a melting point

of the first wax by 5°C.

7. The toner according to claim 1, wherein each of the first wax and the second wax has a melting point that is not more than 100°C.

8. The toner according to claim 1, wherein the resin forming the core layer has a weight-average molecular weight in a range of 15,000 to 500,000.

9. The toner according to claim 1, wherein the resin forming the core layer comprises high-molecular-weight resin particles, intermediate-molecular-weight resin particles and low-molecular-weight resin particles, and the intermediate-molecular-weight resin particles have a weight-average molecular weight that is smaller than that of the high-molecular-weight resin particles, and greater than that of the low-molecular-weight resin particles.

10. The toner according to claim 9, wherein the high-molecular-weight resin particles have a weight-average molecular weight in a range of 160,000 to 500,000, and the low-molecular-weight resin particles have a weight-average molecular weight in a range of 15,000 to 20,000.

11. The toner according to claim 1, wherein the toner comprises toner particles each of which has the core layer and the shell layer, and the toner particles have a degree of roundness in a range from 0.930 to 0.990, with a standard deviation of the degree of roundness being set to not more than 0.10.

12. The toner according to claim 1, wherein the toner has a softening point in a range from 70 to 150°C.

13. A toner comprising:

a core layer that is formed by allowing at least first resin particles and a colorant to aggregate and fusion-adhere to one another; and

a shell layer that is formed by allowing second resin particles to aggregate and fusion-adhere to the surface of the core layer,

wherein the core layer and the shell layer respectively contain a first wax and a second wax; the second wax has a melting point that is higher than a melting point of the first wax; the first wax has an average dispersion diameter that is smaller than the average dispersion diameter of the second wax; and the first wax has a content in the core layer that is greater than a content of the second wax in the shell layer.

14. The toner according to claim 13, wherein the first wax has an average dispersion diameter in a range of 0.3 to 0.8  $\mu\text{m}$  and the second wax has an average dispersion diameter in a range of 0.5 to 1.0  $\mu\text{m}$ .

15. The toner according to claim 13, wherein the first wax has a content in a range of 10 to 30 % by weight in the core layer and the second wax has a content in a range of 5 to 25 % by weight in the shell layer.

16. The toner according to claim 13, wherein the first wax and the second wax are ester compounds, and the first wax contains a straight-chain saturated monohydroxy alcohol as an alcohol component and the second wax contains a di- to hexa-valent polyhydroxy alcohol as an alcohol

component.

17. The toner according to claim 13, wherein the first wax and the second wax are ester compounds.

18. The toner according to claim 13, wherein the second wax has a melting point that is higher than a melting point of the first wax.

19. The toner according to claim 13, wherein the melting point of the second wax has a difference from the melting point of the first wax by not less than 5°C.